

- Client:** Lee Stephen
- Project:** Copyediting for science fiction book – *The Glorious Becoming* (516 pages)
- Objective:** Provide in-depth line edits and an editorial critique
- Key Components:**
1. Battle the theme of prejudice in narrative vs. POV characters
 2. Point out inconsistencies with characterization
 3. Highlight strengths and offer feedback on weaknesses

Edit/Critique Close-Up #1

She made a **face**, then stood up. “I was mad at you.”
“Hey, don’t leave!”
“I’m making a waffle, Mark.” Turning away, the Canadian disappeared through the crowded cafeteria. After **fidgiting** for several seconds, Mark pushed his chair back, stood up, and went after her.
Leslie observed his departure as she munched on her omelet. “Yeah,” she said with half a mouthful, “they’re getting married one day.”
“So anyway,” said Frank, “about that thing in *Tech Weekly*...”
Leslie rolled her eyes.

Catalina’s focus was solely on her waffle, its scent filling the air around her. Hands resting on the counter, she intentionally tried to ignore everything else. Unfortunately, *everything else* wasn’t ignoring her. She sensed Mark behind her before he even touched her. The hairs on her neck bristled as **he hovered his lips** just above them. It was impossible for her to keep her eyes open.

“I’m sorry,” he whispered, placing a kiss on her **skin**. She quietly exhaled. “I was wrong last night.”
“This isn’t even *about* last night, is it?” She spoke softly despite the seriousness of her words. “This is about Tom.”

Catalina and Mark had a dynamic relationship. It was a constant flux between tenderness and irritation, between true romance and recreational physicality. It was barely more than lust, but more just the same. “I don’t want Tom messing with you. I want you to tell me when he does.”

“So you’ll what? Get in a fight?”

Comment [JLC101]: What kind of face?

Comment [JLC102]: How does he fidgit? Does he tap his fingers on the table? His feet on the floor?

Comment [JLC103]: his lips hovered

Comment [JLC104]: It feels like the romance between Cat and Mark is coming out of nowhere. What about adding some emotion throughout their scenes (or when Cat is thinking about Mark)? Can she think straight when he’s around? Does her breath quicken? Does she get butterflies in her stomach? Does she find herself smiling when she’s thinking about him? Is she hurt, emotionally, that Mark left her by herself, other than being angry (that depressive state associated with abandonment, like he doesn’t care about her)? Just something to show that she does have feelings for him whether or not she, at least, finds him attractive.

Edit/Critique Close-Up #2

Natalie’s words trailed off as she saw the image on her **comm** display—the image of a young black woman with a bob haircut and glasses, and a face that looked strikingly like the scout she was there to assist. **Her finger off the talk button, the captain stared in a stunned stupor** “No way...” Her gaze **distancing**, she stood still for several moments before shifting the frequency to someone else. “Logan, come in.”

“Here,” the lieutenant said grittily. “What the hell’s **goin’** on, Nat? My whole bloody room’s soaked.”

“Join the club. Did you see that photo on your **comm**?”

Logan answered, “Yeah, I saw it when it came in. **Lookin’** at it now.”

“Now imagine her with a ponytail and no glasses.”

There was a distinct pause before Logan replied. “Oh, hell.”

Grinding her teeth, Natalie flicked her wet ponytail back angrily. “Go **find** Confinement. You’ll find her.”

“Will do, Nat. Am I **waitin’** for you?”

“Negative.” Her eyes settled into a glare. “I have someone else to talk to.” As soon as the connection was closed, Natalie queued up Scott.

“Scott **here**.”

She gathered her composure. “It’s Natalie. I unlocked Brooking’s door—she should be fine whenever she gets here.”

Comment [JLC131]: Make the action more pronounced – “She took her finger off the talk button and stared at the display in a stunned stupor”

Comment [JLC132]: Makes it sound like she’s moving the comm away from her. Reword to show her focus is changing.

Comment [JLC133]: Find or go to?

Comment [JLC134]: He answers Natalie? I wonder what he’s thinking.

Featured Comment (Editorial Critique):

One recurring issue I noticed throughout the book is the overuse of adverbs. Adverbs should be used in moderation. The trouble with adverbs is that they’re not descriptive and some adverbs, especially long ones, take away from the natural word flow, resulting in cumbersome reading. Adverbs also tell readers what is going on rather than showing them. This way, the reader has to create the action in his mind based on assumptions.